

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed August 19, 2008. Claims 1-20 were pending in the present application. This Amendment amends claims 1, 6, 13, 14, and 15, and cancels claim 17, leaving pending in the application claims 1-16 and 18-20. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Cramer* (US 6,920,580 in view of *Schultz* (US 2003/0145130) and *Peters* (US 2002/0162047). Applicants respectfully submit that these references do not teach or suggest each element of these claims. For example, the claims have been amended to recite limitations including, or similar to, “a shared cache memory for temporarily storing data,” “a plurality of disc drives each operable to transfer and store data from the shared cache memory,” and “a plurality of circuit boards connected to the shared cache memory.” Further, each of the circuit boards includes a network controlling unit operable to “perform a conversion between a file access from the external device and a block access,” a disc controlling unit formed in the same circuit board and “operable to store data into the shared cache memory based on the file access transmitted from the network controlling unit”, and “a fault monitoring unit operable to retrieve status information for the network controlling unit and determine whether a fault exists for the network controlling unit, the fault monitoring unit being further operable to determine whether the fault is attributable to hardware and, if so, send a message to another circuit board of the plurality of circuit boards to begin fail-over processing.” It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not, individually or in combination, teach or suggest such limitations.

In particular, *Cramer*, *Schultz*, and *Peters*, even in combination, fail to teach or suggest a plurality of circuit boards having a network controlling unit which carries out conversion between a file access received from an external device and a block access, and a disc controlling unit which stores data into a shared cache memory based on the file access transmitted from the network controlling unit. The storage adapter 206 and network adapter in FIG. 2 of *Cramer*, for

example, are both “adapters” and thus are different from the circuit boards as recited in the claims. Neither *Schultz* nor *Peters* make up for these deficiencies in *Cramer* with respect to these claims. Further, the claims as amended recite circuit boards that provide efficient fault monitoring via the network controlling unit, as well as fail-over processing. Such elements are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, individually or in combination.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that these references cannot render obvious Applicants’ claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom. The other claims recite limitations that similarly are neither taught nor suggested by these references, such that these claims also are not rendered obvious. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejections with respect to these claims be withdrawn.

II. Amendment to the Claims

Unless otherwise specified or addressed in the remarks section, amendments to the claims are made for purposes of clarity, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims or limit any equivalents thereof. The amendments are supported by the specification and do not add new matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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